

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A method for the treatment of a surface comprising the sequential application to the surface of a hydrogel-precursor component and a crosslinking component in either order to form a removable hydrogel patch on said surface, and the removal of the patch once the removable hydrogel patch has formed or substantially formed thereon.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the surface is a soft surface.
3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the soft surface is selected from the list consisting of textiles, clothing, carpets, curtains, and upholstery.
4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the surface is a hard surface.
5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the removal is achieved by peeling said patch from the surface.
6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the removal is via a washing process.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the crosslinking component is applied to the surface prior to the application of the hydrogel-precursor component.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein a second application of the crosslinking component is made after the application of the hydrogel-precursor component.
9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the crosslinking component comprises  $M^{2+}$  ions, where M is a Group IIA element or any other metallic

element capable of exhibiting a +2 oxidation state, and the hydrogel-precursor component comprises an alginate.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the  $M^{2+}$  ions are  $Ca^{2+}$  ions.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~ wherein the alginate is a sodium alginate.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1 wherein said hydrogel-precursor is present in the range 0.25 to 5 wt% of the weight of the component containing said hydrogel-precursor.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 12~~ claim 9 wherein the  $M^{2+}$  ions are present as 0.03 to 5% by weight of the crosslinking component.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed ~~in any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein at least one of the crosslinking or hydrogel-precursor components further comprises one or more of the following: a bleach, an enzyme and a surfactant.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising a hydrogel-precursor-containing component, and a crosslinking component, both ~~as defined in any of claims 1 to 14~~ as claimed in claim 1.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) An applicator means comprising a plurality of separate compartments and wherein each compartment contains at least either a hydrogel-precursor component, or a crosslinking component, both ~~as defined in any of claims 1 to 14~~ as claimed in

claim 1, such that said components are kept apart as and until the components are sequentially applied to a surface to form a removable hydrogel patch.